

Remarks

In view of the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested. Claims 1 – 58 remain in this application. Claims 1 – 21, 23 – 28, 33 – 42, and 49 – 58 are allowed. Claims 22, 29 – 32, 43 and 44 are rejected. Claims 45 – 48 are objected to. Claims 22, 29 – 32, and 43 – 48 have been amended.

1. Allowed Claims/Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 1 – 21, 23 – 28, 33 – 42, and 49 – 58.

2. § 112 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 22, 29 – 32, and 44 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as their invention. In particular, the Examiner points out that several claim limitations in these claims lack antecedent basis. In response, the Applicants have amended claims 22, 29 – 32, and 44 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions.

Further, the Examiner has objected to claims 44 – 48 for minor deficiencies. In response, the Applicants have amended claims 44 – 48 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the rejection and objection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

3. § 103 Rejections

A. The Examiner has rejected claims 43 and 44 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable for obviousness over U.S. Patent No. 6,262,815 to Segawa.

Segawa is directed to an image scanner that includes an image sensor, a lens for focusing images onto the image sensor, a reflecting mirror for directing images of an object to the image sensor through the lens, and a driver for rotating the reflecting mirror. The reflecting mirror has a first width located closer to the lens and a second width located remoter from the lens than the first width, both of the first and second widths extending in parallel with the

image sensor. The first width is designed to be smaller than the second width. The reflecting mirror is preferably trapezoidal.

Independent claim 43 has been amended to further recite “a module connection mechanism coupled to the frame member, the module connection mechanism being configured to mate with an optical chassis to thereby form the optical switch fabric.” The Examiner has already indicated that this subject matter is patentable over the prior art of record.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the rejection and objection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

3. Conclusion

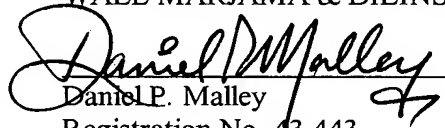
Based upon the remarks and papers of record, Applicant believes the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the prior art of record. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims 1 - 53 and a prompt Notice of Allowance thereon.

Applicant believes that no extension of time is necessary to make this Response timely. Should Applicant be in error, Applicant respectfully requests that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Response timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 50-0289.

Please direct any questions or comments to Daniel P. Malley at (607) 256-7307.

Respectfully submitted,

WALL MARJAMA & BILINSKI

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel P. Malley", is written over a horizontal line.

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